

REMARKS

The indication that claims 2 - 9, 11 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged. However, applicants note that of the objected to claims 2 - 9, 11 and 12 designated by the Examiner, claims 2 and 3 are independent claims, and are thus assumed to be allowed in light of the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. Thus, claims 2 and 3 have been retained without amendment, and applicants submit that dependent claims 5, 8 and 11 which depend from parent claim 2 should be considered allowable without amendment thereof. Likewise, dependent claims 6, 9 and 12 which depend from parent claim 3 which should be allowed, should be considered allowable with parent claim 3 without amendment. As such, applicants submit that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 should now be in condition for allowance.

With respect to claims 4 and 7 which are indicated as objected to and depend from rejected claim 1, by the present amendment, claims 4 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form incorporating the features of parent claim 1 therein, such that these objected to claims 4 and 7 should now be in condition for allowance, based upon the indication by the Examiner.

As to the rejection of claims 1 and 10 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohzeki (5,925,956 A), such rejection is considered to be obviated by the cancellation of claims 1 and 10 and accordingly, a discussion of the cited art in relation thereto is considered unnecessary.

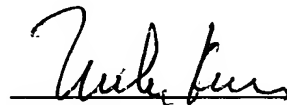
In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that the only claims remaining in this application, i.e., claims 2 - 9, 11 and 12 should now be

in condition for allowance, and issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 102.42973X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Melvin Kraus", is written over a horizontal line.

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